

Trees



Apple flower



Maidenhair



Cypress

Ash

Pointed, narrow leaves



9-13
leaves on
each stalk

Wide,
sweeping
branches

Rough, pale grey bark



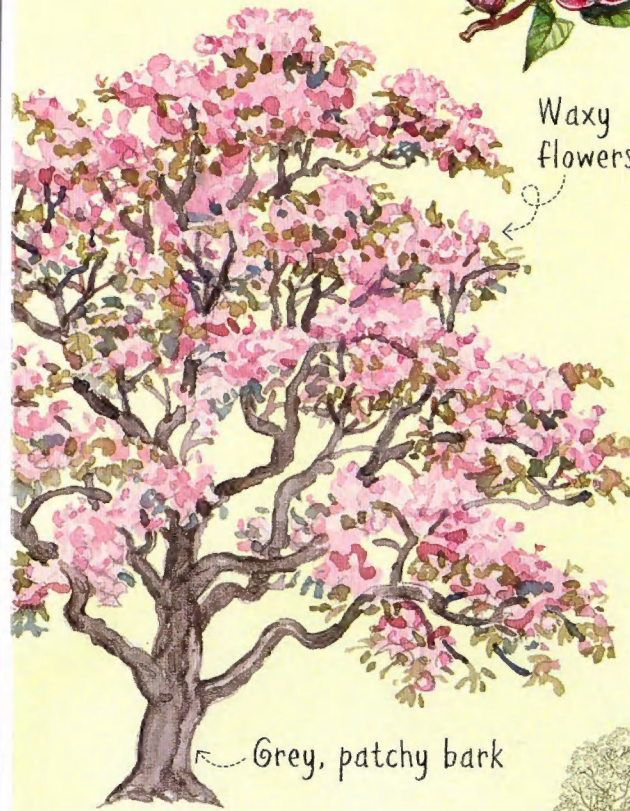
Magnolia

Large leaves
and flowers



Waxy
flowers

Grey, patchy bark



Beech

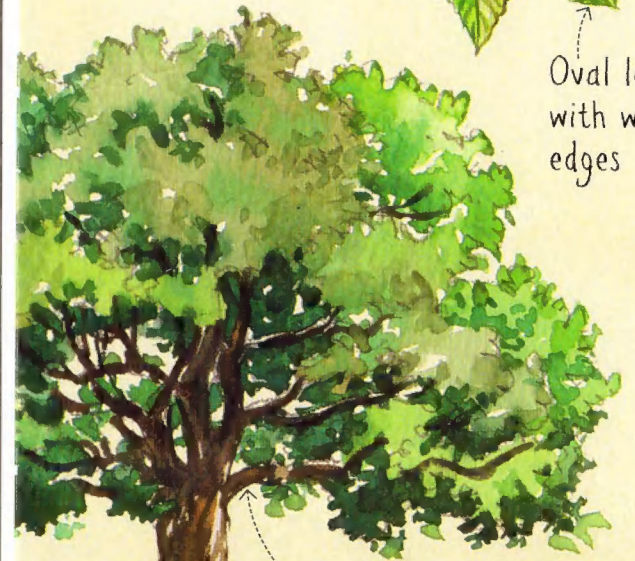
Brown, pointy
leaf bud



Oval leaves
with wavy
edges

Broad, spreading
branches

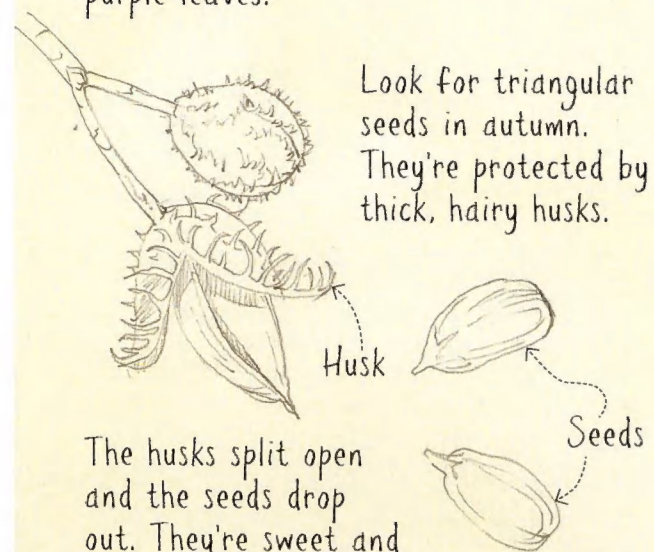
Smooth bark





Beech trees can grow very tall, with magnificent spreading branches.

The most common sort of beech trees have pale green leaves, but some have purple leaves.



Look for triangular seeds in autumn. They're protected by thick, hairy husks.

The husks split open and the seeds drop out. They're sweet and squirrels eat them.



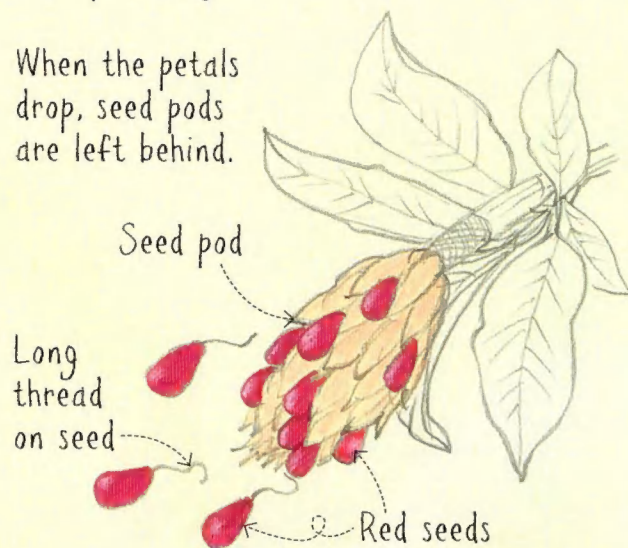
Leafy fact: Beech wood is very good for making furniture. It also makes good drums.



The best place to see a magnolia tree is in a park or garden.

Some have white flowers, while others have pink or yellow ones.

When the petals drop, seed pods are left behind.



Magnolia seeds are covered in red flesh. Birds like them as they are full of energy.



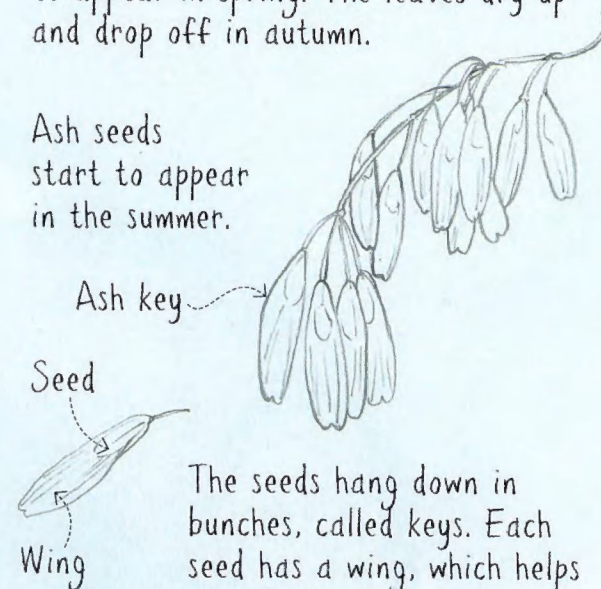
Leafy fact: The magnolia tree is named after a French tree expert called Pierre Magnol.



Ash trees are some of the most common trees in the countryside.

They have feathery leaves which start to appear in spring. The leaves dry up and drop off in autumn.

Ash seeds start to appear in the summer.



The seeds hang down in bunches, called keys. Each seed has a wing, which helps it glide through the air.



Leafy fact: In ancient Norse religion, the first man on earth was called Ask, and he was formed from an ash tree.

Plane

Wide,
leathery
leaves

Pointy tips

Broad,
spreading
branches

Pale, patchy
bark



Oak

Curvy leaves

Wide, bushy top

3-5 curves
on each side

Thick,
heavy
branches

Knobbly,
brown-grey
bark



Cypress

Pointed
tree top

Feathery leaves
have scales.

Short branches
close to trunk

Reddish bark



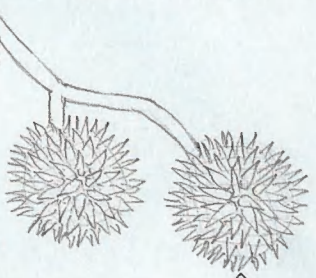


You often see plane trees in the streets and parks of towns and cities.

Most have smooth bark on their trunks. This flakes away in patches to show new bark.



The seeds form in tight balls. You can see them hanging on the trees throughout winter.



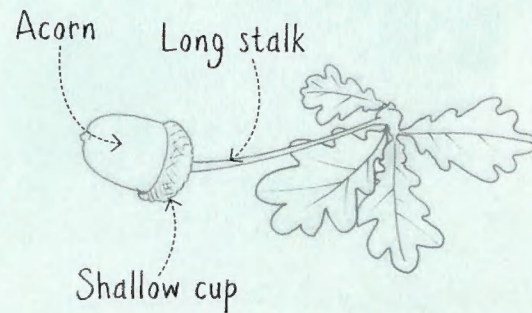
The seeds are often eaten by birds.

Leafy fact: Plane trees can live for hundreds of years. There's one in Greece that some people think is more than 2,000 years old.



You can see oak trees in the countryside, in fields and hedgerows beside roads.

In October, look out for the seeds on their branches. They're called acorns.



In winter the leaves fall off, revealing massive, twisting branches.



Leafy fact: Oak trees can live for hundreds of years, and some are over seven hundred years old.

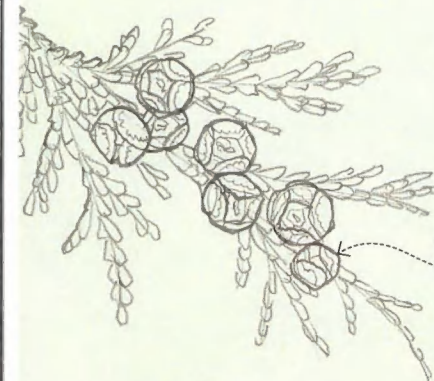


Cypress trees are evergreen trees, which means they stay green all year.

They are often grown together to make thick hedges.



In early summer, they grow seed cones, which look like small balls.

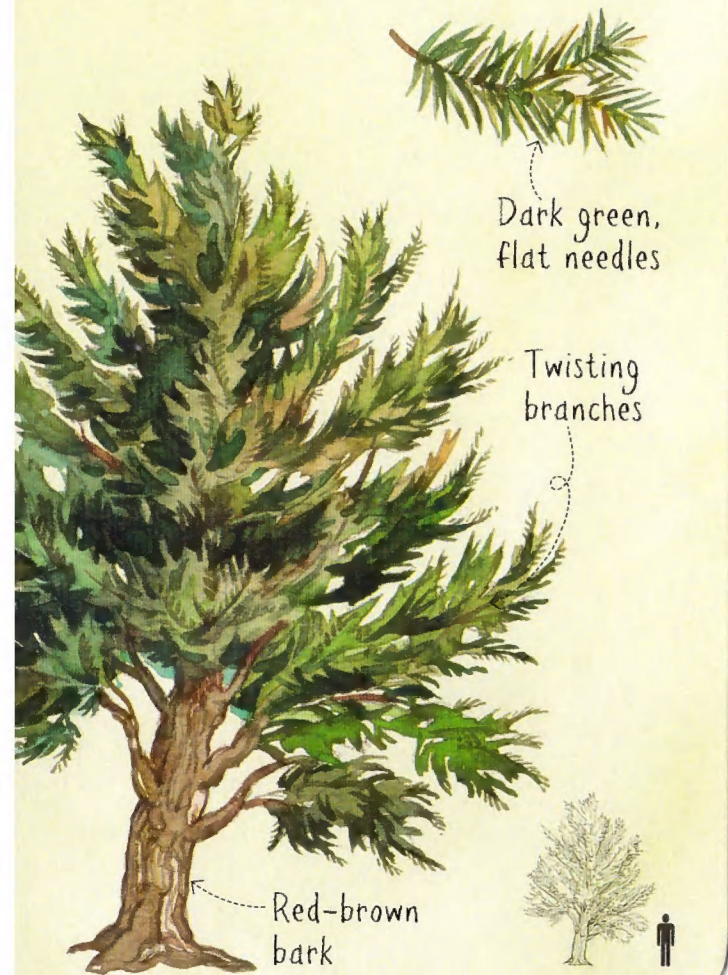


The cones are green at first, then turn brown in the autumn.

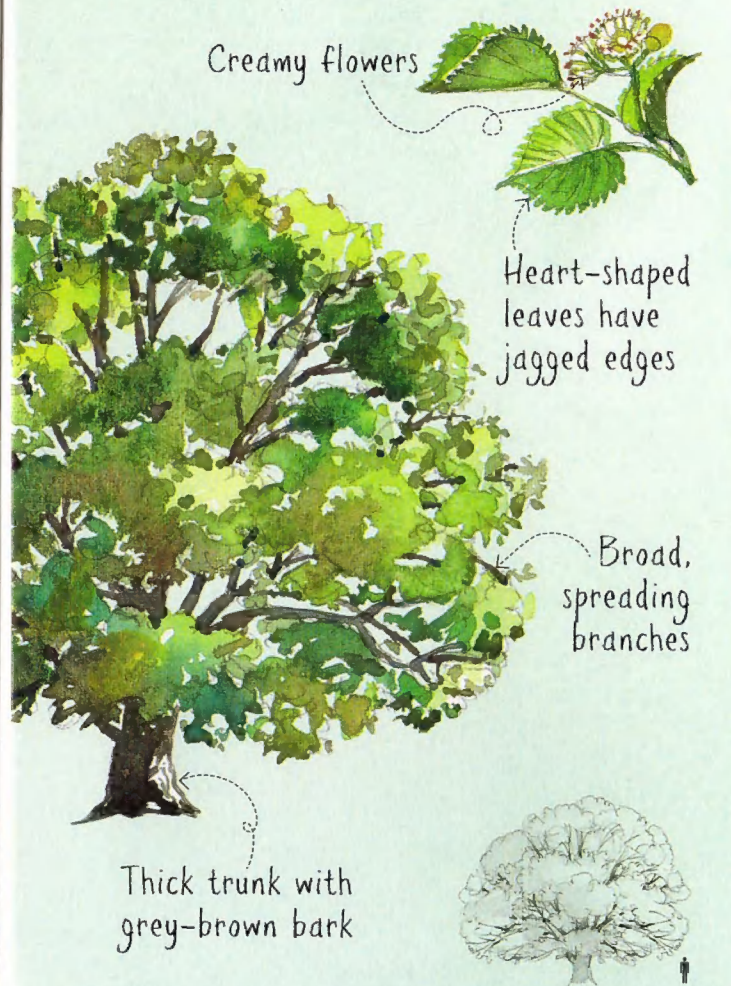
Leafy fact: When cut, cypress wood has a strong perfume. It is very tough and is sometimes used to make floor planks.



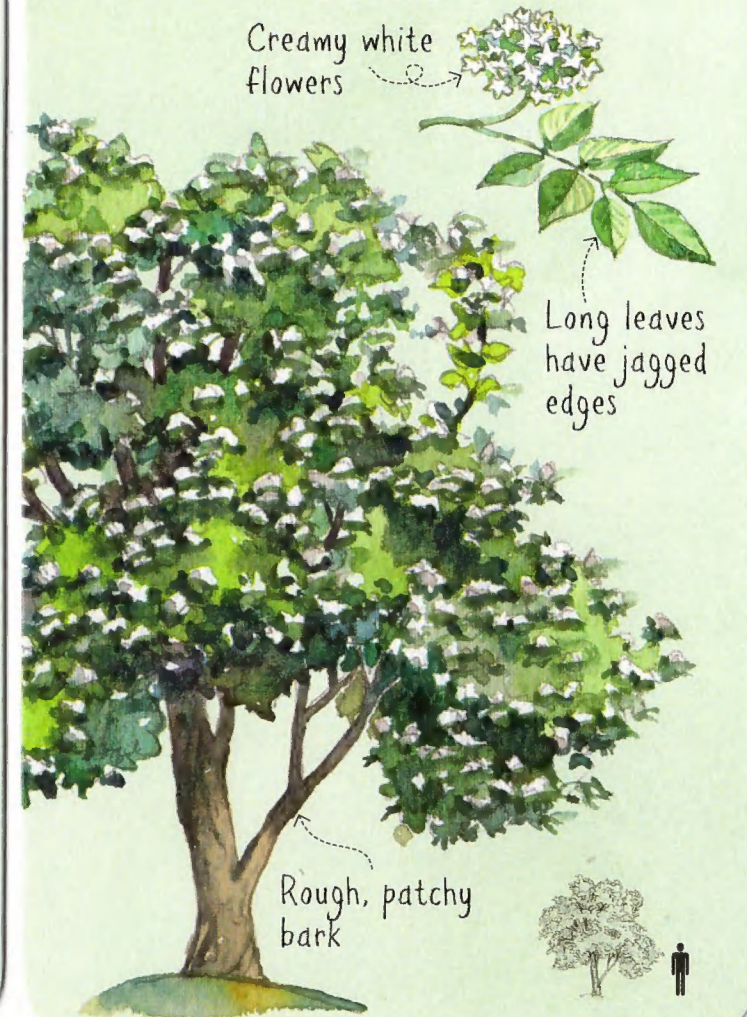
Yew



Lime



Elder

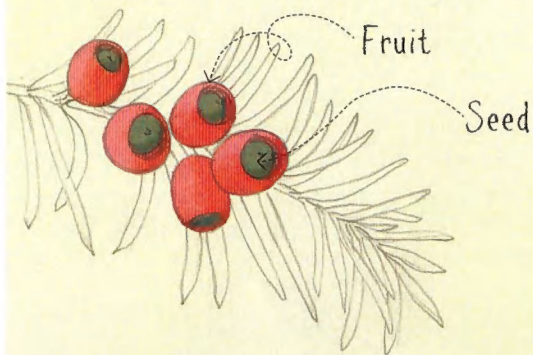




Yew trees grow in the countryside, and in parks and gardens. Some are clipped into amazing shapes.

Yew trees are evergreen trees, which means they stay green all year round.

Look for seeds in the autumn. They are surrounded by soft, sticky flesh, which birds eat.



The seeds are poisonous, but they pass straight through the birds.



Leafy fact: Because yews are evergreen, they have been symbols of everlasting life since ancient times.



You can find lime trees growing in parks and beside roads in towns and cities.

They grow into tall, majestic trees and can live for many hundreds of years.

They are covered in small flowers in the summer. The flowers have a delicious scent.



You often see honey bees on the flowers.



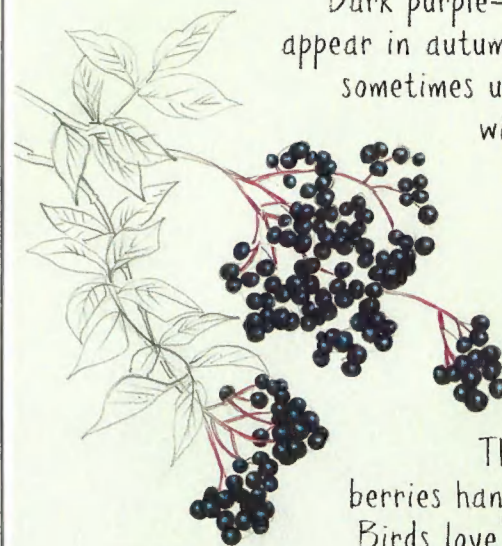
Leafy fact: The flowers of the lime tree can be made into a sweet-tasting tea. It is used to treat illnesses such as colds and coughs.



The elder is a small tree. You can often see it growing in woods and hedgerows.

Elder flowers appear in the spring. They are creamy white and look like fine lace.

Dark purple-blue berries appear in autumn. They are sometimes used to make wine and jam.



The small juicy berries hang in clusters. Birds love to eat them.



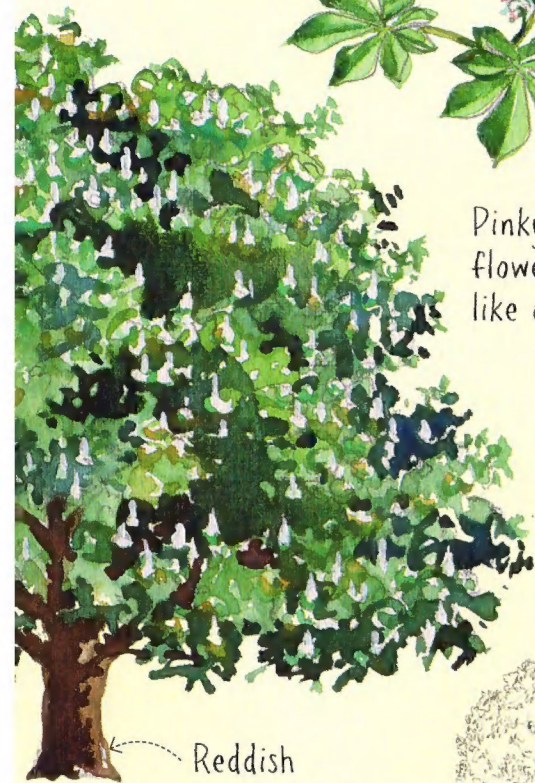
Leafy fact: Elder trees used to be planted around fields and houses as people thought they would protect them from witches and their evil spells.

Horse chestnut

Large, hand-shaped leaves



Pinky-white flowers grow like candles.



Reddish brown bark

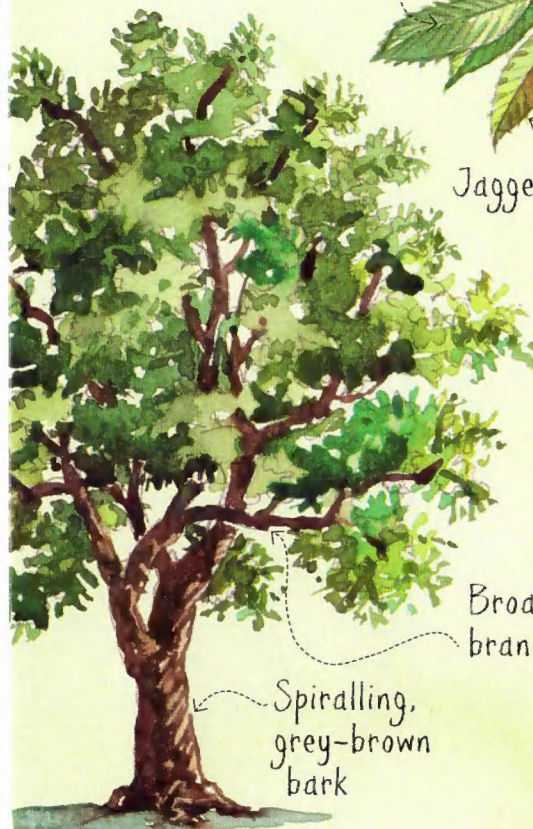


Sweet chestnut

Long, thin leaves



Jagged edges



Broad, spreading branches

Spiralling, grey-brown bark



Tulip tree

4 points on each leaf



Pale green

Branches sweep upwards near the tree top.



Grey bark

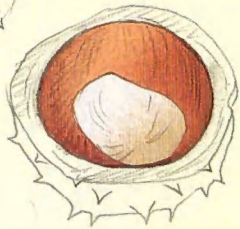
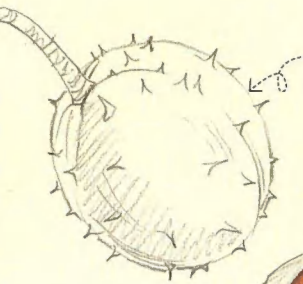




You can see horse chestnut trees in towns and cities. You'll also find them in parks.

They have large leaves and beautiful flowers that appear in the spring.

The seeds appear in the autumn. They grow inside thick, spiky cases.



The seeds are often called 'conkers'. They look like small, shiny wooden balls.



Leafy fact: Horse chestnut seeds are used to make medicines for curing pain and swelling in legs.



You often see sweet chestnuts in woods and the countryside. You also sometimes find them in parks.

In June and July, the flowers appear in long, thin clusters called catkins.



Sweet chestnuts are often grown for their seeds. They are known as chestnuts and become ripe in October.

Prickly case



The seeds are deliciously sweet when they are cooked.



Leafy fact: Roman soldiers often ate porridge made from chestnuts before they went into battle. They believed this gave them extra energy.



You will usually only see tulip trees in parks and gardens. They often stand high above surrounding trees.

They have a very elegant shape, and grow very fast.



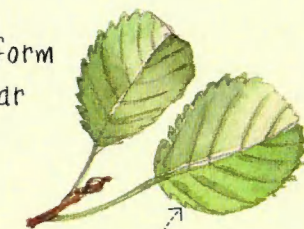
In the summer, older trees often have delicate yellow and orange flowers.



Leafy fact: Tulip trees get their name from their cup-like flowers which look a bit like tulip flowers.

Alder

Branches form a point near the top.



Oval leaves have jagged edges.

Long, slender branches

Grey-brown, cracked bark



Scots pine

Blue-green leaves called needles



The needles grow in pairs.

Bark turns to orange further up the tree.

Tall, bare trunk with cracked bark



Apple tree

Oval leaves have jagged edges.



Pink-white flowers

Untidy, twisting branches

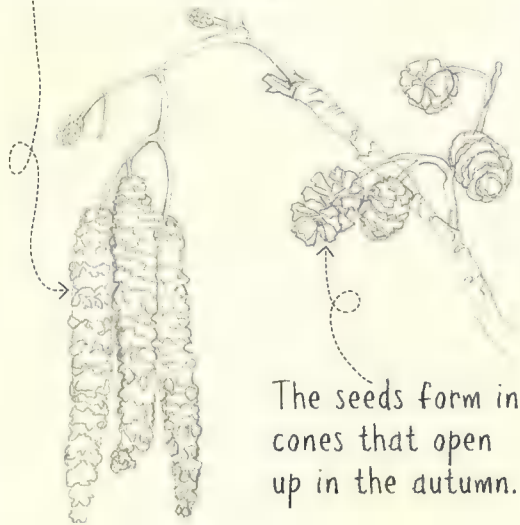
Grey-brown, patchy bark





Alders like to grow in damp areas, beside marshes, streams and rivers.

The flowers are called catkins. They appear in early spring.



The seeds form in cones that open up in the autumn.

The cones drop their seeds in autumn and winter.



Leafy fact: Alder wood does not rot in water, so it's very good for making posts which support bridges across water.



You usually see Scots pines growing in forests and on heaths and hillsides.

Young trees have pointed tops, but older trees have flat tops.

In the spring, the trees have yellow and pink flowers.



The pink flowers grow into cones which carry seeds.



Leafy fact: Scots pine wood is a pale red-brown colour. It is used to make paper and furniture.



You can sometimes see wild apple trees growing in woods and hedgerows.

Most apple trees are specially grown in orchards and gardens.

They're grown for their juicy fruits which ripen in the autumn.



Some apples can be eaten raw.

Some apples are cooked.



The seeds are deep inside the middle of the fruit.



Leafy fact: In many ancient religions, apples were believed to bring knowledge and everlasting youth.

Silver birch

Leaves have jagged edges and pointed tips.



Thin, waving branches

Silvery bark



Cedar

Green needles



The needles grow in short tufts.

Branches spread in flat plates.

Cracked, brown-grey bark



Cherry tree

Leaves with pointed tips



White or pink flowers

Short branches sweep upwards.

Smooth, shiny bark





Birch trees are slim, fast-growing trees.

The silver birch gets its name from its silvery bark. It peels off in papery ribbons.



In the spring, look for long, hanging flowers called catkins.

Catkin

The catkins dry up and drop tiny seeds in the autumn.



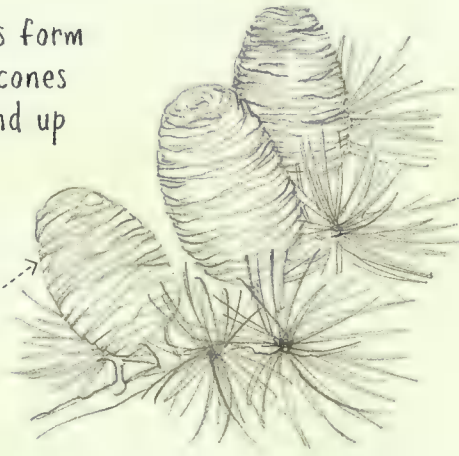
Leafy fact: The bark from birch trees is waterproof and, in the past, people used it to make buckets and bathtubs.



You can sometimes see cedar trees in the parks and gardens of grand houses.

Cedar trees are evergreen and can grow into magnificent trees. They originally come from the Middle East.

The seeds form in large cones that stand up on the branches.



When the cones ripen, they dry and break up and the seeds drop to the ground.



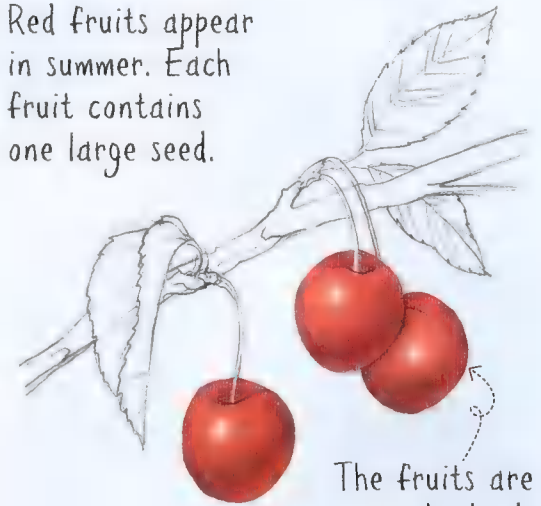
Leafy fact: A thick, sticky and sweet-smelling juice called resin oozes out of cedar trees. The ancient Egyptians used it for making mummies.



Wild cherry trees grow in woods. They are the ancestors of the cherry trees you see in gardens and orchards.

In spring, they are covered in pink or white flowers. The leaves turn orange and red in autumn.

Red fruits appear in summer. Each fruit contains one large seed.



The fruits are eaten by birds.



Leafy fact: The wood from cherry trees is a beautiful golden brown. It is very popular for making furniture.

Maidenhair

Fan-shaped leaves



Curving veins on each leaf

Long, untidy branches

Rough, grey-brown bark



Rowan

9-15 leaves on each stalk



The leaves have jagged edges.

Branches sweep upwards.

Smooth, grey-brown bark



Sycamore

Leaves grow in pairs.



4-5 points on each leaf

Broad, spreading branches

Patchy, pink-grey bark






You can see maidenhair trees planted in parks and gardens, and along streets.

Maidenhair trees can grow very tall and live for hundreds of years.

The leaves turn bright yellow in the autumn, before dropping off.



Some maidenheads grow fruits in autumn. They look like small plums.

 Leafy fact: The maidenhair is a very ancient type of tree. Fossils of maidenhair leaves have been found in rocks dating back 245 million years.



Rowans are small, bushy trees. You see them in parks and gardens, and also in woodlands.


Look for clusters of creamy white flowers in the spring.



Orange berries appear in the autumn. They can be made into a jelly.

Each of the berries holds three to six seeds.



 Leafy fact: Rowans were once thought to be magic trees. People used to hang rowan twigs in their houses to protect them against witches' spells.



Sycamores can be seen in the countryside and in parks and gardens.

In spring, they have clusters of tiny yellow flowers.




Wing



The seeds appear in the summer. They have wings.

The seeds twirl down to the ground in the autumn.

 Leafy fact: Sycamore wood is pale and strong. It is used to make furniture and musical instruments.

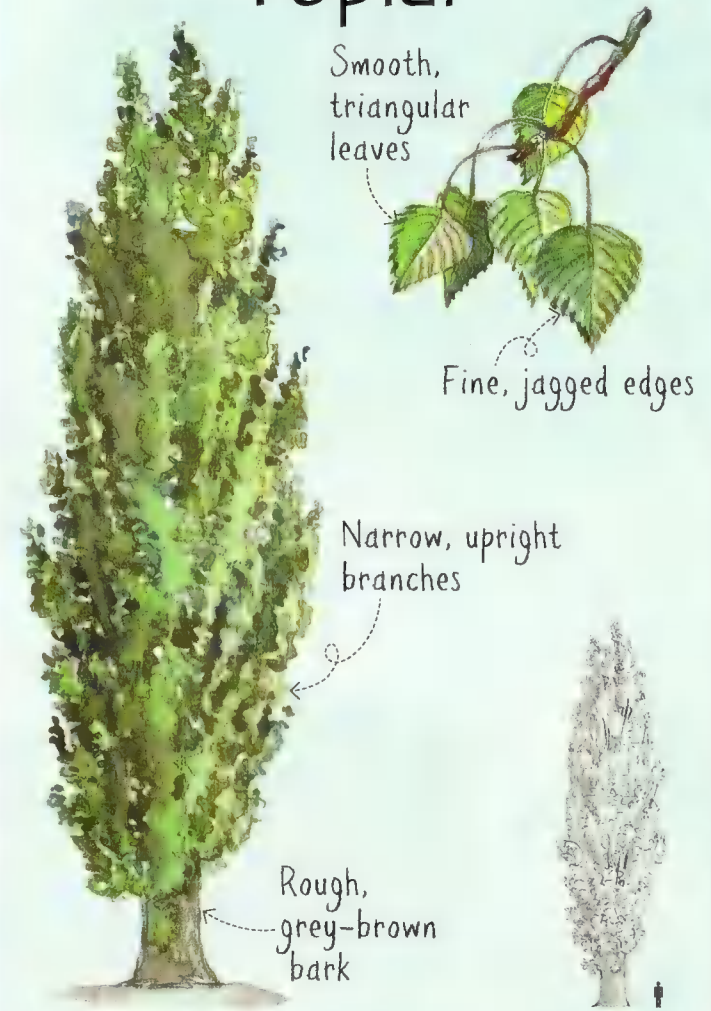
Fir



Pear tree



Poplar



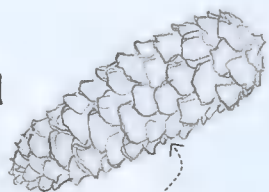


You can see fir trees in woodlands and parks.

Small green cones containing seeds start to grow in the spring. They stand upright like little candles.



The cones grow bigger through the summer and ripen in the autumn.



When they're ripe, the cones open up and drop their seeds.



Leafy fact: Fir wood is soft and light. It is often used as a building timber and for making paper.



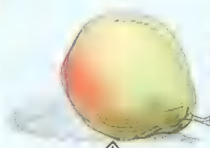
Pear trees grow wild in the countryside. They're also grown in gardens and orchards.

In spring, pear trees are covered in small, white flowers.

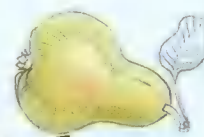


Bosc pear

The flowers turn into pears in the autumn. There are lots of different types.



Comice pear



Williams pear



Pears can be eaten fresh, cooked or dried.



Leafy fact: The wood from pear trees is often used to make woodwind musical instruments, such as recorders.



You can often see poplars growing beside roads, or in damp areas like river banks. There are several different kinds.

The poplar shown on this card is called a Lombardy poplar. It grows tall and straight.

Look out for its red flowers that appear in early spring.



The flowers grow in long, thin clusters called catkins, which hang like tails.



Leafy fact: Catkins get their name from the old English word for 'kitten', as they look like long, silky kittens' tails.

Spruce

Dark green needles



Branches sweep upwards.



Larch

Light brown twigs



Small tufts of pale green needles

Long, curving branches



Pinkish grey, cracked bark



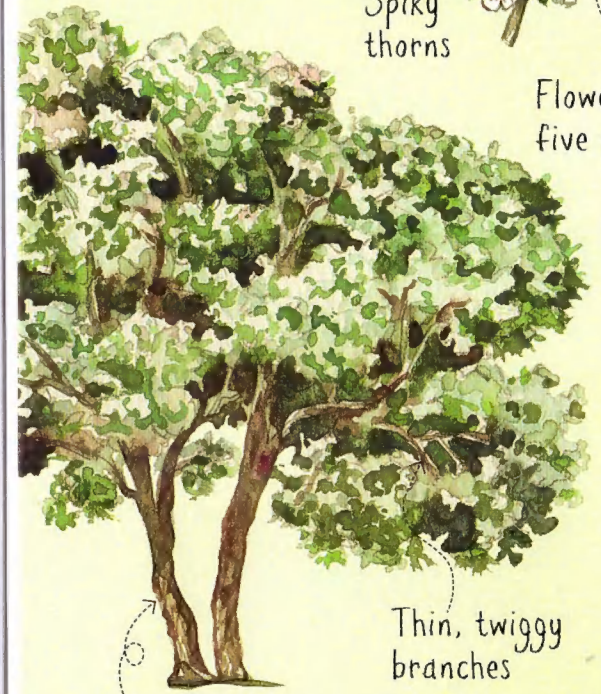
Hawthorn

Leaves have wavy edges.



Spiky thorns

Flowers have five petals.



Thin, twiggy branches

Knobbly grey or brown bark

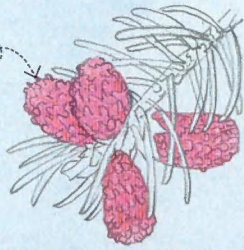




Spruce trees like to grow in cool, damp areas. The one shown here is a Norway spruce.

Spruce trees are evergreen. This means that they keep their leaves throughout the year.

Look for flowers in May. They are pink and grow into long cones.



The cones contain seeds, which fall from the cones in the following spring.



Leafy fact: Norway spruce trees are the most popular type of Christmas tree.



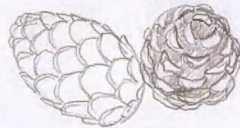
Look for larch trees in woods and parks.

They look like evergreen trees, but their leaves turn bright yellow in the autumn and then drop off.

Small red flowers appear in spring. These grow into cones in summer. The cones contain seeds.



In autumn, the cones open up, releasing their seeds.

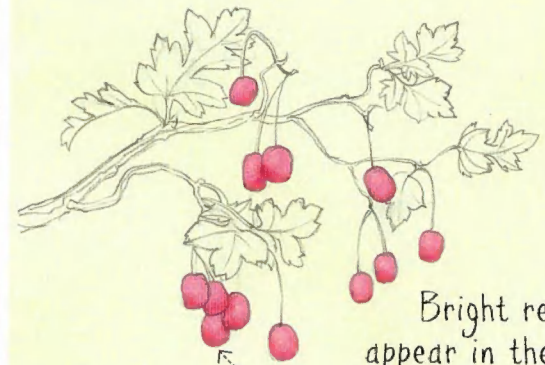


Leafy fact: Larch wood is very strong. But it's also very bendy and is often used for building yachts.



Hawthorns are small, fast-growing trees. They're often cut back to make thick hedges.

In spring, the trees are covered in white, pale pink or dark pink flowers.



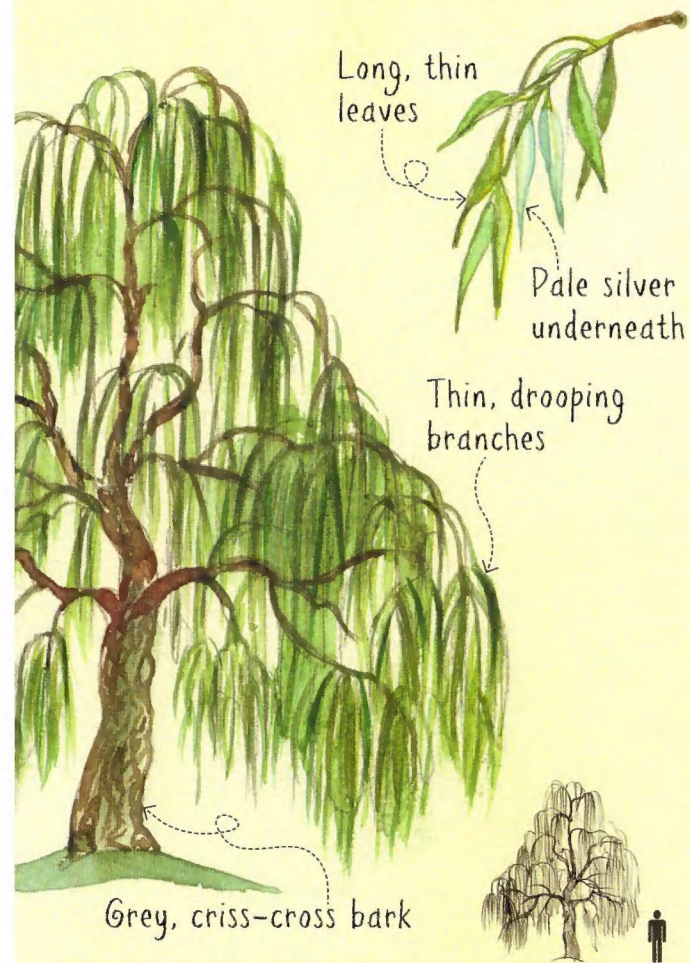
Bright red berries appear in the autumn. They are known as 'haws'.

The haws make a tasty food for birds during the cold winter months.



Leafy fact: People used to think hawthorns were magical trees. It was very bad luck to cut one down.

Weeping willow



Monkey puzzle



Holly

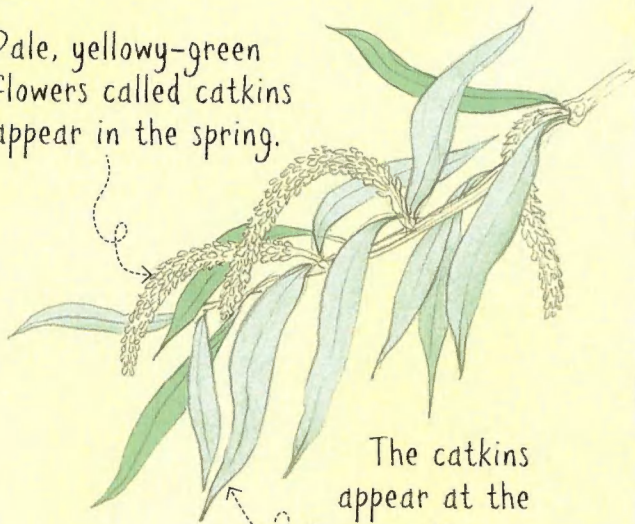





Willows like damp areas, so you often see them growing near ponds and rivers.

Weeping willows have curtains of silvery-green leaves and thin, trailing branches.

Pale, yellowy-green flowers called catkins appear in the spring.



The catkins appear at the same time as the leaves.

 Leafy fact: The ancient Egyptians used the leaves and bark of willow trees to make medicines for aches and fever.




Monkey puzzle trees grow in parks and gardens. They come from South America.

They are evergreen trees, so they keep their leaves all through the year.



Look for seed cones in the spring. They are like small balls.

The seeds are sweet and in some countries people eat them.

 Leafy fact: The monkey puzzle tree gets its name from the idea that even a monkey would find it difficult to climb up the prickly branches.




Holly trees grow in woods and hedgerows. They are also found in gardens.

They are evergreen trees, which means they keep their leaves all year.

In the autumn, small bright red berries appear on some trees.



The berries make a tasty treat for birds in winter, when food is scarce.

 Leafy fact: Some people believe that if holly trees have lots of berries in autumn, it means there'll be a long, hard winter.